

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064190

EXDIS - FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, USUN, EG, XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SC MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

REFS: (A) USUN 840 (B) STATE 61990

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EFFORT (REFTEL A) TO PERSUADE
EGYPT NOT TO PRESS NOW FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING HAS
NOT DISSUADED THE EGYPTIANS. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT
AMBASSADOR MEGUID, ON INSTRUCTIONS, HAS REQUESTED
A MEETING BEGINNING MARCH 25. BEFORE AMBASSADOR YOUNG
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BEGINS THE REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE
ONE LAST EFFORT WITH FAHMY ON AN URGENT BASIS.

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, IN
ADDITION TO ARGUMENTATION IN REF B.

-- WE ARE AWARE FROM AMBASSADOR MEGUID'S CONVERSATION

MARCH 22 WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG OF EGYPT'S REQUEST THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL BE CONVENED MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS THE SYG'S REPORT. BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS, WE WISH TO REITERATE DIRECTLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER THE CONCERN WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR MEGUID CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

-- WE ATTACH HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE VISITS OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS TO WASHINGTON AND TO POSITIVE RESULTS WHICH WE ALL HOPE TO ACHIEVE. FOR THIS REASON, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPRUDENT TO CONVENE THE SECURITY COUNCIL DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD, THEREBY RAISING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT PUBLIC POSITIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON SERIOUS, COMPLEX ISSUES THAT ARE UNDER PRIVATE DISCUSSION.

-- WE HAD EARLIER TOLD AMBASSADOR MEGUID THAT IF EGYPT COULD ASSURE US IT WOULD WORK FOR A SIMPLE, PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS, WE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO CONSIDERING THE SYG'S REPORT DURING THE U.S. PRESIDENCY. WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD WANT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE CONTENTS OF SUCH A CONSENSUS.

-- WE COULD SUPPORT A CONSENSUS STATEMENT CONTAINING ESSENTIALLY THREE ELEMENTS: (1) APPRECIATION OF THE SYG'S EFFORTS; (2) AFFIRMATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND; (3) REQUEST THAT THE SYG CONTINUE HIS CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES. WE WOULD STRONGLY RESIST EFFORTS TO GO BEYOND CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS.

-- PRESIDENTS SADAT AND CARTER WILL BE DISCUSSING IN WASHINGTON THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR MAKING SERIOUS PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, MUCH PREFER POSTPONING A COUNCIL MEETING AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE UNLESS IT CAN BE LIMITED TO THE KIND OF CONSENSUS JUST DESCRIBED.

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